Export of Publications

*171. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the value of export of books, newspapers and magazines etc. during the year 1992-93 ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : During the year 1992-93, the value of export of books, newspapers and magazines was Rs. 50 crore.

Restrictions on Indian Goods for Export to USA

*172. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO :
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the restrictions which exist on Indian goods for export to USA ;

(b) whether in view of the Dunkel proposals being accepted, these restrictions will be relaxed;

(c) what steps are being taken to remove these restrictions ; and

(d) the reaction of the US Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (d) The USA maintains quantitative restrictions under the Multi Fibre Arrangement (MFA) on imports of textiles and clothing from a number of countries including India. World trade in textiles has so far been governed by the Multi Fibre Arrangement (MFA). This arrangement was a derogation from GATT and enabled importing countries to impose country-wise quota restrictions. The Agreement on Textiles and Clothing in the Final Act of the Uruguay Round envisages a phase out of the MFA and the integration of the textiles sector into the Multilateral trading system at the end of a ten year transition period. This is the first ever commitment by the importing countries to dismantle the arrangement. Legal security has also been built into the Agreement. The period of phase out is divided into three stages of 3 years, 4 years and 3 years. At the commencement of each stage a specified percentage of textiles and clothing items will stand integrated into the multilateral framework. Besides, in respect of restrained products, increased access is provided during the transition period by the application of growth factors till such products get integrated.

The USA has joined the consensus on the results of the Uruguay Round negotiations on 15-12-1993. Since the textiles agreement of the Uruguay Round is multilateral agreement the question of a specific response from the US does not arise.

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय कोयला सम्मेलन

***173. श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय :
श्री अन्नत राम जायसवाल :**

क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हाल ही में रांची में कोयला तकनीक पर एक दो दिवसीय अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन का आयोजन किया गया था;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या उक्त सम्मेलन में कोई नीतिगत निर्णय भी लिया गया था;

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है और क्या यह भी सच है कि देश में कोयले का कुल भंडार अनुभाग से काफी कम है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसके प्रमुख कारण क्या हैं और इस समय खनन कार्यों में आ रहे गतिरोधों के बावजूद उपलब्ध कोयले के भंडार के पनर्मूल्यांकन तथा कोयले के भंडार के भंडारण की क्षमता बढ़ाने के लिए सुझाव देने हेतु क्या किसी समिति का गठन किया गया है; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है और यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री अजित कुमार पांजा) : (क) से (ङ) केन्द्रीय खान आयोजन एवं डिजाइन संस्थान लि० ने 19 तथा 20 जनवरी, 1994 को रांची में आधुनिक कोयला खानों के लिए अन्वेषण प्रौद्योगिकी पर एक दो दिवसीय संगोष्टि आयोजित की थी, जिसमें कुछ विदेशी प्रतिनिधियों ने भी भाग लिया था।

संगोष्टि के समापन पर मुख्य रूप में निम्नलिखित सिफारिशें की गई :—

(क) एक राष्ट्रीय कोयला अन्वेषण नीति का निष्पादन किए जाने की आवश्यकता है;

(ख) चालू अन्वेषण क्रियाकलाप जारी रखे जाएं;

(ग) भू-भौतिकी, हाइड्रोजोलाजिकल (जल-भूगर्भीय) जांच तथा अन्य आधुनिक उपकरणों का प्रयोग करके अन्वेषण प्रौद्योगिकी को अद्यतन किए जाने की आवश्यकता है;

(घ) वास्तविक जांच के माध्यम से आंकड़ों के प्रत्यावर्तन को अद्यतन किए जाने की आवश्यकता है;

(ङ) निम्नलिखित बल दिए जाने वाले क्षेत्रों का विनिर्दिष्टकरण—अन्तरीय-सीमा में भू-कम्पीय तथा क्रास बोरहोल टोपोग्राफी—

कोयला बेड मेथेन का उत्खनन।

यह बात सत्य नहीं है कि देश में कोयले के कुल भंडार अनुमानित भंडारों से कम हैं।

Export Promotion Industrial Parks Scheme

*174. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that; Government had finalised in April, 1993, a scheme known as 'Export Promotion Industrial Parks Scheme' ;

(b) if so, the main features of the Scheme ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the scheme initially failed to take off ;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken to remedy the situation and the progress madle in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (e) A draft Export Promotion Industrial Park Scheme was circulated to State Governments and Planning Commission on 31-3-1993 for comments/suggestions. The Scheme was envisaged for implementation from 1994-95 only.

The Scheme provides that 75% of the capital expenditure incurred towards creation of infrastructural facilities for export oriented production, which will ordinarily be limited to Rs. 10 crores in each case, will be met -from a Central grant to the State Governments. In addition, a maintenance grant equivalent to 2% of export turnover of each unit established therein would also be made available to the State Governments for a period of 5 years from the date of commercial production of that unit.

National Commission for Wage Policy

*175 SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to appoint a National Commission on Labour to look into the wage policy and if so, when the Commission will be appointed;

(b) whether Government have prepared any terms of reference for the Commission; and